

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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East Germany

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SUBJECT

Remarks by Peter Pries on the Four-Power Conference

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5 January 1953

**SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.**

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. On 5 January 1954 at a meeting of the National Council of the National Front in East Berlin, Peter Pries, Head of the Agitation Department of the SED Central Committee, gave the main speech. Among other points he criticized the National Front for having put up posters on Alexanderplatz demanding a Four-Power Conference on 4 January 1954. Pries stated that the call for this conference had been issued on American initiative and that the placards would therefore have to be removed immediately.
2. Pries stated further that the chief demands of the East German population should be:
 - a. No elections as demanded by Adenauer and his clique;
 - b. A strengthening of the workers' and peasants' power in the DDR.
3. Pries reported that up to 5 January 1954 the National Front had collected more than one million signatures on the petition for joint German representation at the Four-Power Conference. He criticized severely the practice used in Leipzig and in several other cities and towns whereby food gifts were presented to those who signed the petition. This practice would have to cease immediately, he stated.
4. [redacted] from Magdeburg [redacted]
 - a. On the whole, pastors were refusing to sign the petition, stating that they wanted peace but wished to remain in the background as far as signing petitions was concerned.
 - b. During collection of signatures for the petition, it had been apparent that the people wished to discuss the Oder-Neisse line.
5. Pries declared that both of these matters were very important because they had also been observed in other Bezirke. For this reason, he stated, it is highly important to tell the people that the Oder-

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Neisse line is inviolable and must stand.

6. Grl (fnu) 1/ reported that in West Berlin there was a general lassitude regarding the demands for all-German participation in the Four-Power Conference. He stated that it was extremely important that the population of West Berlin be mobilized by the National Front to make such demands.
7. Pries stated that the conference in Berlin had been brought about as a result of the initiative of the Soviet Union. He remarked that the battle for the unity of Germany would not be an easy one and that no one should believe that the Americans would already be out of Germany by the end of 1954.
8. Pries stated further that the Americans had wanted to force through the EDC contracts at Bermuda but that the Soviet Union had frustrated this plan by its proposal for a Four-Power Conference. For this reason Bermuda had been a failure as far as completing EDC was concerned.

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- 1/ Comment. This is probably Fritz Grl, First Secretary of the Committee of the National Front for Berlin.

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